

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

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S/S-O P.P.SARROS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN FLASH

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 208598

EXDIS TOSEC 10

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XX

SUBJECT: SECRETARYS SITREP NO 1 AS OF 0500 EDT 10-20-73

DELIVER TO SECRETARY'S AIRCRAFT WHICH DUE ARRIVE
COPENHAGEN 1415 LOCAL.

1. NORTHERN FRONT: NEWS AGENCIES REPORTED SYRIAN MILITARY SOURCES AS SAYING FIERCE FIGHTING AND A QUOTE MAJOR NEW SYRIAN COUNTEROFFENSIVE UNQUOTE WAS UNDERWAY LAST NIGHT IN THE NORTHERN AND CENTRAL SECTORS OF THE GOLAN. WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES. (EUROPEAN ATTACHE WHO LEFT DAMASCUS OCTOBER 18 SAID THAT AT LEAST 60 PERCENT OF SYRIAN FORCES HAVE BEEN DESTROYED AND THAT ISRAEL HAS CUT IDF TO 3-4 BRIGADES ON SYRIAN FRONT.)

2. REPORTS FROM ISRAEL INDICATED WIDESPREAD FEDAYEEN SHELLING ON LEBANESE FRONTIER CAUSING FIRES AND CASUALTIES YESTERDAY. LAST NIGHT THERE WERE FURTHER EXCHANGES OF FIRE BETWEEN FEDAYEEN AND ISRAELIS BUT ISRAEL CLAIMED NO CASUALTIES AND LITTLE DAMAGE INCURRED.

3. SOUTHERN FRONT: IN CONTRAST TO EBULLIENT MOOD THAT
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HAS CHARACTERIZED RECENT IDF BRIEFINGS ON SUEZ FRONT, IDF SPOKESMAN AT EVENING BRIEFING ON OCTOBER 19 WAS SUBDUED WHEN DESCRIBING LATEST SITUATION. HE REPORTED

ISRAELI FORCE ON WEST BANK OF CANAL IS MEETING STIFF RESISTANCE. TWO OF THREE PRONGS OF ISRAELI THRUST WEST OF CANAL ARE STALLED -- ATTEMPT TO MOVE SOUTH TOWARD SUEZ CITY, AND THRUST IN SOUTH-WESTERLY DIRECTION TO CUT CAIRO-SUEZ RAIL AND ROAD COMMUNICATION. IDF BRIEFER SAID 200 TO 250 EGYPTIAN TANKS ARE OPPOSING ISRAELI WEST BANK FORCE AND EGYPTIAN ARTILLERY EAST OF CANAL HAS STARTED FIRING TO THE WEST IN SUPPORT OF EGYPTIAN DEFENDERS. ALTHOUGH SITUATION IS UNCLEAR IDF BRIEFER NOTED FOR FIRST TIME THAT QUOTE ISRAELIS ARE TAKING CASUALTIES. UNQUOTE .SENIOR ISRAELI MOD OFFICIAL BELIEVES OCTOBER 20 MAY BE KEY IN DETERMINING HOW LONG EGYPTIANS CAN CONTINUE. PRESS FROM BOTH TEL AVIV AND CAIRO THIS MORNING IS REPORTING THAT MAJOR TANK BATTLE CONTINUES ON EAST BANK OF CANAL, PARTICULARLY IN THE CENTRAL SECTOR. ISRAELI GENERAL IS QUOTED IN PRESS AS SAYING THAT EGYPTIANS ARE USING RUSSIAN TACTICS -- MASSIVE ATTACKS -- AND ENORMOUS LOSS OF MANPOWER, EGYPTIANS FIGHTING A SUICIDE FIGHT. UNQUOTE.

4. IN A TELEVISION INTERVIEW BEFORE THE SECRETARY'S VISIT TO MOSCOW WAS ANNOUNCED, DAYAN SAID QUOTE I ABSOLUTELY REJECT THE IDEA THAT THE WAR WILL END BY THE SUPERPOWERS COMPELLING THE END OF THE WAR. I REJECT IT, I DON'T LIKE IT, AND I HOPE IT WON'T HAPPEN -- THAT RUSSIA AND AMERICA WILL SAY, QUOTE NOW, YOU BOYS STOP IT. UNQUOTE. THAT REALLY WON'T GET ANY PRACTICAL RESULT.

5. CASUALTIES: ALTHOUGH REPORTS ARE CONFLICTING, DIA ESTIMATES CASUALTIES AND LOSSES THROUGH OCTOBER 19 AS:

	ARABS	ISRAELIS
PERSONNEL (KIA/WIA)	15,500	4,000
TANKS	1,800	870
AIRCRAFT	360	110

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6. SOVIET AIRLIFT. SOVIET AIRLIFT REACHED NEW HIGH OCTOBER 19. APPROXIMATELY 102 TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT LANDED OR WERE ENROUTE BRINGING 10-DAY TOTAL TO ESTIMATED 613 FLIGHTS. EGYPT RECEIVED BULK OF FLIGHTS ON OCTOBER 19.

7. ACTING FONMIN FAHMI SUMMONED FRENCH, BRITISH AND SWISS AMBASSADORS IN CAIRO AND INFORMED THEM THAT EGYPT WILL NOT ACCORD CITIZENS OF NONCOMBATTANT STATES WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE CURRENT BATTLE AND ARE CAPTURED, PROTECTION PROVIDED UNDER THE GENEVA AGREEMENT. EGYPT WILL TREAT THEM AS MERCENARIES.

8. ZAYYAT IN NEW YORK. AN FBI SOURCE REPORTED THAT

ZAYYAT MET SEPARATELY WITH SOVIET UN AMBASSADOR AND PRC AMBASSADOR HUANG HUA ON EVENING OF OCTOBER 19. ZAYYAT SAID THAT HIS LATEST INFO FROM HAFEZ ISMAIL IN CAIRO WAS THAT SYRIANS WERE MAKING AN OFFENSIVE AND FIERCE BATTLE IN EGYPT WAS ENTERING FIFTH DAY AND OUTCOME UNKNOWN. ZAYYAT SAID THAT HE HAD NO CURRENT POLITICAL INSTRUCTIONS FROM CAIRO. HE SAID THAT NIGERIAN UN AMBASSADOR HAD ADVISED HIM AFTER MEETING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER THAT USG WOULD INTRODUCE RESOLUTION IN SECURITY COUNCIL BY MIDDLE OF NEXT WEEK, ASKING FOR CEASE-FIRE AND QUICK ACTION ON PRINCIPLES OF RESOLUTION 242.

9. ISRAELI POLITICAL MOOD. EMBASSY TEL AVIV REPORTS THAT ISRAELI HOMEFRONT IS HOLDING UP WELL. NECESSARY SERVICES ARE BEING MAINTAINED AND THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF ESSENTIAL FOODSTUFFS OR SUPPLIES. EMBASSY BELIEVES US RESUPPLY HAS STRENGTHENED MEIR AND GOI DOMESTICALLY, AND, AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING, STILLED DISSATISFACTION OVER FAILURE TO RECOGNIZE ARAB THREAT. HOWEVER, POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL MOOD APPEARS TO SUPPORT IDF CARRYING THROUGH BATTLE TO ITS LOGICAL CONCLUSION. EMBASSY BELIEVES GOI FLEXIBILITY WITH RESPECT TO ACCEPTANCE OF ANY CEASEFIRE IS LIMITED.

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10. LIBYA SUSPENDS OIL EXPORTS TO US. LIBYAN RADIO ANNOUNCED THAT THE LARG IS SUSPENDING OIL EXPORTS TO THE U.S. LIBYA ALSO UNILATERALLY RAISED THE POSTED PRICE OF 40 DEGREE CRUDE OIL FROM \$4.58 TO \$8.92. LIBYA AND ABU DHABI ARE THE TWO STATES THUS FAR THAT HAVE ANNOUNCED EMBARGOS ON SHIPMENTS TO US (ACCOUNTING FOR ABOUT 380,000 BBLs/DAY DIRECT SHIPMENTS TO U.S.)

11. PRESSURE ON ARAB MODERATES INCREASING. AFTER RECENT SILENCE ON SUBJECT, MEDIA IN ALGERIA, IRAQ AND LIBYA HAVE BEGUN TO CRITICIZE JORDAN FOR FAILING TO OPEN ANOTHER FRONT. BAGHDAD MEDIA HAS ALSO CRITICIZED KING FAYSAL FOR HIS FAILURE TO COMPLETELY CUTOFF SAUDI OIL TO THE U.S.

12. SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE. THE WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCED THE SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE FOR MOSCOW AT 0030 EDT., OCTOBER 20. GERALD WARREN ANNOUNCED THAT DOBRYNIN AND SISCO AMONGST OTHERS (UNIDENTIFIED) WERE ACCOMPANYING THE SECRETARY.

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